EX

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)		
	10/024,462	PADMANABHAN E,T AL.		
	Examiner	Art Unit		
	Stephen J. Cherry	2863		
The MAILING DATE of this communication apperature All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RI of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313	(OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this app or other appropriate communication IGHTS. This application is subject to	plication. If not include will be mailed in due	ed course. THIS	
1. X This communication is responsive to 11-3-2005.		,	·	
2. ☑ The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-23</u> .			ic .	
3.	e been received. e been received in Application No cuments have been received in this r of this communication to file a reply of IENT of this application. itted. Note the attached EXAMINER' es reason(s) why the oath or declarate the submitted. son's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-9 as Amendment / Comment or in the O as Amendment / Comment or in the O as Af(c)) should be written on the drawin the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(c) sit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL m	complying with the red S AMENDMENT or Nation is deficient. 948) attached office action of the sin the front (not the sin). nust be submitted.	quirements NOTICE OF	
Attachment(s) 1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5. ☐ Notice of Informal Pa 6. ☐ Interview Summary Paper No./Mail Date 8), 7. ☐ Examiner's Amendm	(PTO-413), e	O-152)	
 Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No./Mail Date	·	8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance		
•	9.			

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-23 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The independent claim 1 recites "a plurality of sensors for detecting agents in an area and generating a signal comprising a probability of accuracy; a controller communicatively coupled to the sensors for receiving the signals from the sensors wherein the controller utilizes an evidence accrual method to combine probabilities of detection provided by the sensors to determine whether such agents are a threat with a greater probability than any individual sensor". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

The independent claim 10 recites "a plurality of sensors for detecting agents in multiple areas and generating a signal comprising a probability of accuracy; a plurality of integrating controllers communicatively coupled to selected groups of sensors protecting each area for receiving the signals from the sensors to determine whether such agents are a threat to a respective area with a greater probability than any individual sensor". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

The independent claim 13 recites "a plurality of sensors for detecting agents in multiple areas and generating a signal comprising a probability of accuracy; a plurality of integrating controllers communicatively coupled to selected groups of sensors protecting each area for receiving the signals from the sensors to determine whether such agents are a threat to a respective area with a greater probability than any

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individual sensor". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

The independent claim 16 recites "collecting information from sensors comprising [regarding] the conditional probability of detection of biological agents; combining the information from the sensors to increase the accuracy of the overall probability of the detection of a threat". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

The independent claim 21 recites "determining a probability of detection for each of multiple sensors for a given threat; generating an algorithm for decision fusion for each of multiple local groups of sensors; and generating an algorithm for decision fusion for a combination of the multiple local groups of sensors". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

U.S. Patent 6,289,328 to Shaffer discloses, in figure 3, a system in which measurement information from several sensors is combined to form a probability of detection ('328, col. 4, line 25), however each sensor of does not produce a probability signal or estimate, as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen J. Cherry whose telephone number is (571) 272-2272. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on (571) 272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SJC

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